



Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chair  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

July 25, 2018

Re: WC Docket Nos. 18-143, 10-90 and 14-58; FCC 18-57  
**Proposed Rule** by **FCC** on **06/13/2018** ID: FCC-2018-0212-0002  
<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>

Dear Chairman Pai:

As a community-based organization that provides vital services to the people of Puerto Rico and has been instrumental in providing aid in the aftermath of the hurricanes. @Techlatino is the only Latino Tech Association developing businesses and tech professionals for over 21 years. We have been in Puerto Rico as an active chapter for over 12 years where we helped organize and deployed 2 fully functional technology busses with satellite dishes to supply internet access to the cities and villages who can not get internet access. During the storms our tech busses were used as command centers for the heads of state. We are very sure this is the way to go in Puerto Rico. We continue to do as much as we could and

I submit these comments for consideration by the Commission regarding the implementation of **Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund** .

I support the efforts of the **Coalition to Fund CPR (Centros de Preparación y Respuestas)**

The Commission has publicly stated it recognizes the need for a longer-term solution to “rebuild, improve and expand service in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands” in the wake of the devastation of communication networks. The Commission proposes to dedicate funding specifically to “fixed and mobile providers” to provide critical “fixed voice and broadband services.”

On behalf of the U.S. citizens residing on these islands, I implore you to consider the following. It is undeniable that these islands need and deserve reliable communication systems that can withstand natural disasters and prevent our fellow countryman from ever suffering such devastation again. As such, the funds dedicated through the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund are well directed. We strongly suggest that the Commission include in the proposed rules for the distribution and implementation of the funds the following:

1. Stage 1 funding was too narrowly focused. It excludes locally based satellite facilities. This hampers economic development in Puerto Rico.
2. New entrants with exciting technology better able to withstand extreme weather and natural disasters were inadvertently excluded.



3. Stage 2 and later rounds of funding must be available to new entrants. Specially entrants with satellite facilities in Puerto Rico.

It is also imperative that the FCC understands that any long-term investment in the communications infrastructure of Puerto Rico **must** include satellite technology. Not only must satellite technology be included, it must be **a priority** in any restoration funding efforts.

Leading minds in the telecommunications and spectrum policy fields, as well as former senior members of the Commission, have publicly expressed views indicating that the absence of satellite technology in future telecommunications developments on the islands would ignore nearly five decades of technological advancements and in fact, invest hundreds of millions of dollars in a communications systems that would leave the residents of these islands left behind in a tremendous digital divide. Satellite broadband was the only reliable communications system in the aftermath of the hurricanes and must be fully implemented across the island, especially in rural and mountainous areas, in order to build a truly resilient and connected Puerto Rico. Funding must allow for innovative, independent community based and multi sector telecommunications networks to be established.

Thank you for your dedication to serving the people of Puerto Rico during this difficult time and for your consideration of our remarks. Should you have any questions or wish to speak further, please contact us at directly at 7707653478 or email me at [jam@techlatino.net](mailto:jam@techlatino.net)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose A. Marquez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jose Marquez  
CEO  
[@techlatino](https://www.techlatino.net)